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HARFORD COUNTY KICKS OFF BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK

(Bel Air, MD - September 23, 2008) - -

Harford County Executive David R. Craig accompanied by James Richardson, Director of the Office of Economic Development and members of the staff, kicked off Harford County Business Appreciation Week on Monday in the Town of Bel Air. The county executive, accompanied by Mayor Rob Preston and Commissioner Robert Reier spent most of the day visiting and paying tribute to six businesses in Bel Air.

Among the businesses honored by the county were Harford Mutual Insurance Companies, established in 1842 with 124 employees, Rapid Refill Company, established in 2007 with four employees, The Goddard School of Bel Air, The Harford Mall which is home to 75 businesses, the Open Door Café and Bel Air Auto Auction. Each of the businesses received a plaque from Harford County Government in recognition of their achievements and support to the community.

Tuesday, the county executive continued his visit to area businesses with several stops in Havre de Grace. Joining the county executive was Mayor Wayne Daugherty of Havre de Grace.

Businesses toured on Tuesday included a visit to Harford Memorial Hospital, Save A Lot, La Cucina Restaurant, Smuckers Quality Beverages, Onguard Industries (formerly Bata Shoe) and Vulcan Materials Company which operates the former Arundel Quarry in Havre de Grace.

Additionally, the county executive and Office of Economic Development personnel will visit eight other businesses in Edgewood and along the RT 40 corridor between Wednesday and Friday. Harford Business Appreciation Week culminates Friday with a seminar at the Clarion Hotel in Aberdeen titled "The Economic Outlook for Harford County" presented by Dr. Joseph E. Cater, III, Chief Economist and President of Market - Economics, Inc.

"This is a great week for Harford County Government," stated County Executive Craig. "We have been able to visit, meet with and discuss matters of critical importance to our business community which ultimately affects all of in Harford County. I look forward to building and strengthening our partnership with local businesses," the county executive remarked.